

THE NATIONALIST

An Indian perspective

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Special Article

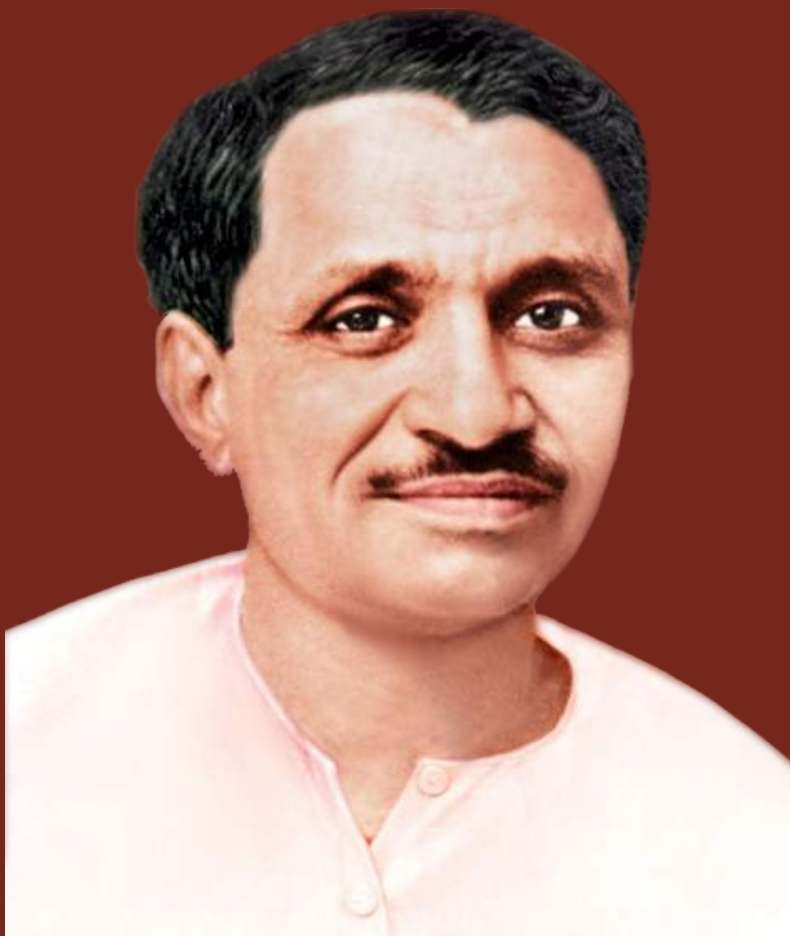
MODI's ONE YEAR – Unleashing India's Great Potential

Modi Govt's 6000 Crore
Relief to Sugarcane
Farmers

Myanmar Operation:
The Indian Hot
Pursuit

Neighbourhood First:
Together We
Grow!

राष्ट्र का विचार लेकर आगे बढ़ें तो एक और एक मिलकर दो नहीं ग्यारह होंगे



“व्यक्तिगत, दलगत या वादगत कोई विचार लेकर चलने से प्रगति नहीं हो सकती। राजनीति आखिर राष्ट्र के लिए ही है। यदि राष्ट्र का विचार छोड़ दिया, यानी राष्ट्र की अस्मिता, उसके इतिहास, संस्कृति, सभ्यता को छोड़ दिया तो राजनीति का क्या उपयोग? राष्ट्र का स्मरण कर कार्य होगा तो सबका मूल्य बढ़ेगा। राष्ट्र को छोड़ा तो सब शून्य जैसा ही है। राष्ट्र का विचार लेकर आगे बढ़ें तो एक और एक मिलकर दो नहीं ग्यारह होते हैं।”

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Editorial

One of the most significant achievements of the last fortnightly has been Prime Minister Modi's very successful state visit to Bangladesh. The goodwill and trust was visible on the occasion, especially in the way Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed welcomed our Prime Minister and expressed a deep appreciation and gratitude to him and to the people of India for finally bringing to fruition the long pending Land Boundary Agreement.

Prime Minister Modi's visit was welcomed in all quarters in Bangladesh and saw the relations graduating to the next level of a dynamic and concerted partnership that shall benefit the two nations, the region and its people. The flagging of the bus services between Dhaka, Kolkata, Agartala, Guwahati and Shillong has reiterated and demonstrated Prime Minister Modi's emphasis on creating greater physical connectivity in the region – only then will the vision of evolving SAARC into a “shared zone of prosperity” become a reality. The access given to Indian vessels to the Chittagong and Mongla ports was another manifestation of this pledge to create greater connectivity. It will not only reduce travel time for Indian ships but will also significantly enhance people to people contact and connectivity.

Prime Minister's address at the Bangabandhu International Convention Centre in the precincts of the historic Dhaka University, the gathering of a

large number of intelligentsia, students and citizens on the occasion and his reiteration that India and Bangladesh shall together walk the path of prosperity, growth and peace saw an enthusiastic response from those gathered on the occasion and was also a loud and clear message to others in the South Asian continent, that despite their disruptive tendencies and actions, India is determined to walk on the path of prosperity and progress.

When Prime Minister said that he wishes for Bangladesh the same future that he wishes for India, it was a deep and earnest message that India had truly developed a new framework and approach to the region and to her neighbours – an approach that was dynamic and genuine. Prime Minister Modi's dexterous wielding of India's civilisational potential and strengths and his insistence on discovering and re-igniting the civilisational and cultural linkages saw him visit the Adi Dhakeshwari Temple, the Ramakrishna Mission and launch a number initiatives and schemes that would strengthen people-to-people cooperation and demonstrate India's capacities and seriousness for humanitarian activities in the neighbourhood.

Close on the heel of the Bangladesh visit has come the successful working out of the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between the SAARC Member States. This has set the stage for

the region's evolution to a next stage of greater connectivity, interaction, exchange and cooperation. One can now easily travel the region between these four countries and work to develop this region as zone of multi-dimensional cooperation. The BBIN ministerial joint statement endorsing this step observed that "The finalization of the BBIN MVA would allow us to move forward, in an accelerated fashion, with implementation of land transport facilitation arrangements between and among our countries. This, in turn, would enable the exchange of traffic rights and ease cross-border movement of goods, vehicles, and people, thereby helping expand people-to-people contact, trade, and economic exchanges between our countries." What could not be done in three decades since the inception of SAARC has been achieved in one year that too with great goodwill and cooperation from all stakeholders. This step has redefined SAARC for the future.

In a special article on the completion of one year of the Narendra Modi led BJP Government, Shri Ram Madhav looks at its principal achievements. He rightly observes, that "In a nutshell what we have achieved in one year can be described thus: we have taken the country and the people from despair and despondency to hope, and from hope to trust and confidence. People today feel that they and their future are in safe hands."

International Yoga Day on June 21st will be another milestone in India's civilisational outreach in the last one

year. Those who have been forever dialectically confused and have been fed with an overdose of Marxian brand of opium again discern "rightist" conspiracies in such a universal and harmonious effort. In their perpetual state of Marxist opium induced delirium they are always incapable of connecting with the civilisational India, an India that is upheld and sustained by the actual proletariat and the real subaltern.

June 25th announces the 40th anniversary of the declaration of Emergency. It is essential for every generation of Indians to be aware of how a particular political party – which nowadays delivers regular homilies on freedom and free speech and democratic rights – acting as a mouthpiece of certain motivated groups –, had throttled democracy, fundamental rights and free speech. It is important to remember how this party and its leaders had imprisoned lakhs of those who resisted this assault on democracy and ushered in the darkest day in post-independent India's political and democratic history. Interestingly those Marxists, who shout most loudly today on the need to eradicate fascism, were the ones who came forward and justified this fascist assault on India's democracy on 25th June 1975. It essential therefore that the memory of those dark days is passed on to generations so that out of these can be created and nurtured the true sentinels of India's democratic spirit.

- Dr. Anirban Ganguly

Director, SPMRF

Salient Points of PM Modi's Address at Bangabandhu Convention Centre



- **Development is the core agenda, not expansionism:**

आज वक्त बदल चुका है, दुनिया बदल चुकी है, कोई एक कालखंड था, जब विस्तारवाद देशों की शक्ति ही पहचान माना जाता था, कौन कितना फैलता है, कौन कहां-कहां तक पहुंचता है, कौन कितना सितम और जुल्म कर सकता है, उसके आधार पर दुनिया की ताकत नापी जाती थी। आज वक्त बदल चुका है, इस युग में, इस समय विस्तारवाद को कोई स्थान नहीं है, आज दुनिया को विकासवाद चाहिए, विस्तारवाद नहीं विकास वाद का युग है और यही मूलभूत चिंतन है।

- **Land boundary agreement is like fall of Berlin wall:**

बहुत कम लोग इस बात का मूल्यांकन कर पाए हैं कि भारत और बांग्लादेश के बीच Land Boundary Agreement क्या ये सिर्फ जमीन विवाद का समझौता हुआ है? अगर किसी को ये लगता है कि दो-चार किलोमीटर जमीन इधर गई और दो-चार किलोमीटर जमीन उधर गई, ये वो

समझौता नहीं है, ये समझौता दिलों को जोड़ने वाला समझौता है।

- **On maritime cooperation:**

Blue Economy ये आने वाले समय का एक बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र है, उस **Blue Economy** पर कैसे हम मिलकर के बल दें, हमारी सामुद्रिक शक्ति, हम सार्क देश में से पांच देश ऐसे हैं, जो समुद्र से सटे हुए हैं। अगर हम समुद्र से सटे हुए देश हैं, हम **Blue Economy** एक सामूहिक ताकत बनकर के काम करें, हम दुनिया को बहुत कुछ दे सकते हैं और हमारी आने वाली पीढ़ी के विकास को नए अवसर दे सकते हैं, हमारा उस दिशा में प्रयास होना चाहिए।

- **Lightning our region with cooperation in energy sector:**

आज अगर हम **Satellite** के द्वारा **Photo** लें तो आप देखेंगे, ये सार्क के ही देश ऐसे हैं **including India**, जहां अभी भी अंधेरा नजर आता है, क्या हमारे यहां उजाला नहीं होना चाहिए? क्या हमारे यहां



गरीब के घर में भी बिजली का दीया जलना चाहिए कि नहीं जलना चाहिए? और अगर ये जलना है तो बिजली चाहिए और बिजली प्राप्त होना, हम अगर मिलकर के काम करें, नेपाल हो, भूटान हो, भारत हो, बांग्लादेश हो – मैं नहीं मानता हूं कि फिर कभी इस इलाके में अंधेरा रह सकता है। हम दोनों देश एक प्रकार से भाग्यशाली हैं और हम पर तपते सूरज की बड़ी कृपा है, अब तक तो वो परेशानी का कारण था लेकिन वही सूरज अब शक्ति का कारण बन गया है, **Solar energy** हमारी बहुत बड़ी वो दौलत हो सकती है। भारत और बांग्लादेश दोनों **Solar**

energy के क्षेत्र में बहुत ही **aggressively** आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं।

• **S A A R C S a t e l l i t e initiative:** हम एक सार्क **satellite** छोड़ेंगे 2016 तक उस काम को हम सफलतापूर्वक करना चाहते हैं। उन सार्क **satellite** के द्वारा इन सार्क देशों को, यहां के किसानों को **weather** के संबंध में जानकारी मिले, कोई सामुद्रिक तूफान की संभावना हो, कोई हवा तेज चलने वाली हो, **cyclone** आने वाले हो, उसका पूर्वानुमान हो, शिक्षा के लिए काम

आए, **health** के लिए काम आए, ये सार्क **satellite** भारत, सार्क देशों के लिए मतलब बांग्लादेश के लिए आने वाले दिनों में लाने वाला है।

• **On Teesta river water dispute:** जब भी बांग्लादेश आया तो स्वाभाविक है, तिस्ता के पानी की चर्चा होना बड़ा स्वाभाविक है। गंगा और ब्रह्मपुत्र के पानी के संबंध में हम साथ चले हैं। और मुझे भरोसा है, और मेरा तो मत है — पंछी, पवन और पानी — तीन को वीजा नहीं लगता है। और इसलिए पानी यह राजनीतिक मुद्दा नहीं हो सकता है, पानी यह मानवता के आधार पर होता है, मानवीय मूल्यों के आधार पर होता है। और उसको मानवीय मूल्यों के आधार पर समस्या का समाधान करने का आधार हम मिलकर करेंगे मुझे विश्वास है रास्ते निकलेंगे, मैं विश्वास दिलाता हूँ। कोशिश जारी रहनी चाहिए। विश्वास टूटना नहीं चाहिए, विश्वाधस डिगना नहीं चाहिए.. परिणाम मिलकर के रहता है।

• **Tackling the menace of terrorism:** Terrorism से कैसे निपटना अभी तक दुनिया को समझ नहीं आ रहा है कि रास्ते क्या है? और कुछ भी गाइड नहीं कर पा रहा है। खुशी की बात है कि बांग्लादेश की प्रधानमंत्री महिला होने के बावजूद भी डंके की चोट पर कह रही हैं कि **terrorism** के संबंध में मेरा जीरो **tolerance** है। **Terrorism** की कोई सीमा नहीं हैं, भू-भाग नहीं है। भारत तो पिछले 40 साल से इसके कारण परेशान है। कितने निर्दोष लोगों की जिंदगी तबाह हो जाती है, कितना रक्त बह रहा है और **Terrorism** से जुड़े हुए लोग क्या पाया उन्होंने? क्या दिया दुनिया को उन्होंने? और इसलिए **Terrorism** का रूप ऐसा है, जिसे कोई सीमाएं नहीं है। कोई भूभाग नहीं है। न उसके कोई आदर्श है, न कोई मूल्य है, न कोई संस्कृति है, न कोई परंपरा है। अगर है तो उनका एक ही इरादा है और वो है मानवता की दुश्मनी। **Terrorism** मानवता का दुश्मन है और इसलिए हम किसी भी पंत सम्प्रदाय के क्यों न हो, किसी भी पूजा पद्धति को क्यों न मानते हो। हम पूजा-पद्धति में विश्वास करते हो या न करते हो। हम ईश्वर या

अल्लाह में विश्वास करते हो या न करते हो, लेकिन मानवता के खिलाफ यह जो लड़ाई चली है मानवतावादी शक्तियों का एक होना बहुत आवश्यक है, जो भी मानवता में विश्वास करते हैं, उन सभी देशों को एक होना बहुत अनिवार्य हुआ है। हम आतंकवादी मानसिकता को **Isolate** करें। उसको निहत्थे करें और मानवता की रक्षा के लिए हम आगे बढ़ें। इस काम में बांग्लादेश की सरकार ने जीरो **tolerance** का यह जो संकल्प किया है मैं उनका अभिनंदन करता हूँ और मैं साफ मानता हूँ कि बांग्लादेश और भारत के बीच न सिर्फ बांग्लादेश और भारत के बीच सार्क देशों में भी हमें **Tourism** को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। **Tourism** को हमने बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। **Tourism Unites the World, Terrorism divides the World-** हम एक दूसरे को जाने, पहचाने नई पीढ़ी मिले-जुले, बात करें, गर्व करें और इसलिए **terrorism** के सामने लड़ने के लिए हमारा मेल-जोल जितना बढ़ेगा, एक दूसरे को पहचानने का अवसर जितना मिलेगा, एक नई शक्ति उसमें से उभर कर आती हैं। उस नई शक्ति को हमने आगे बढ़ाना है। और देश की दिशा में हमने प्रयास किया है।


NARENDRA MODI

PM Modi's Interview to ANI



1. In a scale of 1-10 what would you grade your government?

It is for the people of this country to grade and evaluate us. How can I take away their right? I have presented my report card to the country. Recently, media has published the findings of some surveys. You would already have seen them. I can only say that we have laid a solid foundation on which the people can rate us.

2. You came in with the promise of "Acche Din." Have you been able to meet the goals that you set for yourself in the

first year of the government?

Yes. I am fully satisfied with the work that we have done. The most satisfying part of this year is that we have lived up to the promise that our intentions will be pure and our actions will be driven by long-term national interest. Recall the situation one year ago. Massive corruption at various levels of Government gave rise to scams on a regular basis. Our precious natural resources were going into the hands of a chosen few. In contrast, there are neither any charges of corruption against my Government nor any scandals. Corruption was

seen as the biggest problem. We have given a clean, transparent and efficient Government. *Burey Dino Ki Vidayee Hui hai*. (Bad days are over). Is this not *Acche Din* for the country?

3. What has been the single big success in the past year?

The achievements and successes of my Government are numerous. However, I know that the success of a Government's journey lies in reaching the last man. Therefore, our efforts were directed towards the poor and marginalized. We have also paid special attention to remote corners of the country. Our objective is to transform quality of life, infrastructure and services. We have worked simultaneously on all fronts which bring a smile on the face of the common man. I can give you some examples. From controlling food prices to enhancing farm productivity; improving Railways to strengthening Roads; generating electricity to its 24x7 availability; building school toilets to setting up IITs, IIMs and AIIMS; building houses for the homeless to upgrading our heritage cities; cleaning surroundings to bridging the digital divide; making world class products to skilling and employment generation; strengthening the banking system to funding the unfunded; ensuring labour welfare to providing social

security to common man; rejuvenating rivers to irrigating fields; from enhancing co-operation with States to deepening foreign relations; we have worked at an energetic pace and with innovative spirit.

4. Bringing back black money was a major electoral promise, but then your party president, Amit Shah gave the word 'jumla' to it and Arun Shourie criticized the procedures adopted by the finance ministry. How committed is your government in bringing back black money to India?

My Government is fully committed on the issue of Black Money. We want to crack down severely on tax evasion and black money. I had taken up this issue with world leaders during the G-20 summit. In our very first cabinet meeting, we formed an SIT. Then, we presented a new legislation in Parliament which is very stringent. We want to make it more difficult to evade taxes and siphon money abroad. We are also aggressively pursuing cases against those who have stashed funds illegally in foreign banks. Recently the names of some such persons have been revealed. We are also trying to move towards cashless transactions. We want to make maximum use of ICT in our tax administration.

At the same time, we want to remove the discretion which causes corruption and generation of Black Money. Hence, we promulgated ordinances in sectors like coal and mines. It has proved to be a good step. We have generated Rs. 3.30 lakh crore for the country so far through transparent auction of some coal mines. Similar is the case with auction of spectrum. I can say that if your intentions are noble, you are sure to get success and required support.

5. Key Bills like the Land Acquisition Bill has faced stiff opposition from the opposition. They have been able to create doubts about the government's intention. What do you have to say?

Opposition to our Land Bill is totally unjustified and unfortunate. We have not made any changes for private industry. Moreover, if you have money, you don't need a Land Acquisition Act to accumulate land. Some individuals have done so in Rajasthan, Haryana, Shimla, Delhi etc. Land acquisition becomes necessary for government-driven strategic and development activities, especially in undeveloped areas. This too is done mostly by State Governments. We have made changes only in response to demands of the States. The benefits of these changes will also accrue to

the rural poor in terms of irrigation, housing, electrification, as well as better physical and social infrastructure.

In this country, the Land Acquisition Act was almost 120 years old. The Congress-led Governments used the same Act after independence. Suddenly, before the last Parliamentary elections, the Congress went to another extreme by legislating an Act which is neither in the interest of farmers nor in the interest of the country's development. Now, they are not even ready to sit and discuss. We believe in dialogue with all political parties. I have personally appealed in Parliament that we are ready to open a dialogue with political parties and consider their suggestions. I hope that the parties will cooperate on issues of larger national importance without getting into political calculations.

6. Agriculture is in distress in the country. To a large extent the problem is endemic and decades of mismanagement have resulted in the present situation but how does your government plan to stem the tide of farmer suicides and farming stress?

The root causes of the problem find mention in your question itself. This is a very important issue and the

Government is concerned about it. We have responded to the recent agrarian crisis with alacrity. We have undertaken several reforms. The Union Government has enhanced the relief norms for compensation against crop loss by 50%. The limit of minimum crop damage, for grant of compensation, has been reduced from 50% to 33%. Norms have been relaxed to allow procurement of damaged food grains at MSP rates. The target of agricultural credit has been enhanced in our two consecutive budgets.

But as you said, the problem in agriculture is endemic. Nothing much was done for six long decades. But we have started long-term steps for the farm sector. To address the issue of access to irrigation for every farm, and efficient utilization of water, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been started. Blue Revolution which aims to improve production and productivity in the fisheries sector is also an action point. We have launched the soil health card scheme. The price stabilization fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crores has also been set up for perishable commodities. Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been commenced with the objective of conserving and developing indigenous cattle breeds. We have made honest and sincere efforts for rural development. I have

recently launched the Kisan Channel for giving timely information to farmers on inputs and markets. In the coming days, I would like to see more focused action on increasing Farm Productivity; Rural Industrialization; Skill Development in rural areas and rural trades, and faster Investments in Rural Infrastructure including cold chain.

7. The opposition has termed your government as suit boot ki sarkar. What is your take on this allegation?

Suit-boot is definitely more acceptable than suitcase. After ruling for sixty years, the Congress has suddenly remembered the poor. People of this country have suffered and remained poor due to shortsighted policies of the Congress. Many countries of the world have surpassed us on all accounts including poverty removal. Congress did incremental work so as to keep the issue relevant for next election. Did the coal and spectrum scandals or the CWG fiasco benefit the poor? Everyone knows who were their beneficiaries - some chosen industrialists and contractors. The result of Congress's politics and governance of sixty years is that poverty is still our biggest challenge. One-fourth of the families are without shelter. Health, education, water, electricity and roads are even

bigger unrealised dreams for a large number of citizens of this country. You should ask them- If you were pro-poor, why does poverty still exist in India?"

8. Opposition says that your government is pro-industrialists.

Those who gave away precious natural resources like coal and spectrum to their favourite industrialists have no right to say this. We are working for the common man of the country.

In the very initial months of our Government, we took up the task of providing toilets in all schools. Don't children of the poor study in these public schools?

We implemented the Jan Dhan scheme and opened more than 14 crore bank accounts for financial inclusion. Earlier also, there were banks, as well as people without bank accounts. What did they do all these years?

The so called pro-poor have been just repeating that there is leakage in subsidy. We used technology to ensure that LPG subsidy reaches the targeted person directly;

We have launched MUDRA Bank for financing 6 crore small vendors and businesses 61% of whom are SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities;

We have launched the Pradhan

Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana which the Congress did not think of in sixty years;

We have planned to see that by 2022, no family remains without a roof over its head;

The Soil Health Card scheme has been launched to enhance farm productivity and reduce expenses, thereby enhancing the farmer's income;

We have come out with a comprehensive social security scheme for the poor and marginalised, old and those with low income levels;

Swachh Bharat Mission has been started to see that health and hygiene issues of the poor do not affect the working capacity and output of the poor and labourers;

The Indian Railways, on which the common man travels, is being changed for the better

We have set up the Skill Development Ministry to enhance employability of the youth to whom we are committed to provide jobs through initiatives like 'Make in India'. In the past, the country had been led into an economy of jobless growth.

We provided for reservation of women in the police forces of Union Territories. This was done even when there were no elections around

the corner.

Through the regime of coal auction that we have put in place, more than Rs. three lakh crore have already been generated for the less-developed states of India. This money will be used for the poor of those states.

These are just a few examples. Why were these things not done in the past sixty years. Who prevented them? Their worry is not that we are not pro-poor. Their worry is that they are being exposed as not being pro-poor. People are asking them: "If Modi Government can think and do this in six to nine months, why could you not think and do it in sixty years."

9. You have travelled to 17 countries in 12 months...something that nobody expected you to do as you were seen as a novice on foreign policy matters. But you seem to enjoy running the country's foreign policy. Any comments?

Foreign engagements are international obligations on the part of the Prime Minister. All Prime Ministers have to do this. Moreover, this is an integrated world. We have to attend international, multilateral and bilateral summits, and build ties with our neighbours and other nations. Our foreign policy is mature and there is a full-fledged

mechanism to pursue it. I have only added an element of dynamism to it. We have strived to strongly further our economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region. We have endeavoured to nurture new economic partnerships and tap reserves of energy, minerals, technology and finance from major economies.

10. If we were to return to domestic issues, you have come for criticism from many for not being able to reign in vitriolic elements in your party who have made disparaging remarks against minorities. What do you say?

Our Constitution guarantees religious freedom to every citizen and that is not negotiable. The tradition of welcoming, respecting and honouring all faiths is as old as India itself. As Swami Vivekananda said: We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. This principle of equal respect and treatment for all faiths has been a part of India's ethos for thousands of years. And that is how it became integral to the Constitution of India. Our Constitution did not evolve in a vacuum. It has roots in the ancient cultural traditions of India. I expect that everyone will understand and respect this.

NARENDRA MODI

Modi's One Year – Unleashing India's Great Potential

• Ram Madhav

It was about a year ago that the BJP had won the General Election in a spectacular manner. The slogan that time was 'Congress-mukt Bharat' – a country

“By ‘Congress-mukt’ we didn’t simply mean defeating the Congress party in the elections. Congress in that slogan meant a particular political culture that has come to identify with the politics that the 125-year-old party practised. The BJP wanted the country to be rid of that political culture the hallmark of which has been corruption, nepotism, lack of public accountability, skewed economic thinking that made poverty a political capital and freebies the purchasing power for the votes, dubious secularism and disregard for national security and integrity.”

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party in the elections. Congress in that slogan meant a particular political culture that has come to identify with the politics that the 125-year-old party practised. The BJP wanted the country to be rid of that political culture the hallmark of which has been corruption, nepotism, lack of public accountability, skewed economic thinking that made poverty a political capital and freebies the purchasing power for the votes, dubious secularism and disregard for national security and integrity. The so-called Congress culture has brought unprecedented hardships, misery and despondency to India and its people. And finally they revolted using the time-tested weapon of vote.

In BJP and Shri Narendra Modi the people didn't see just an alternative to the Congress party and its leadership; they rather looked at them with hope for an

alternative political culture. One year down the line the real test for us was as to whether we have succeeded in giving that confidence to the people of the country. In a nutshell what we have achieved in one year can be described thus: we have taken the country and the people from despair and despondency to hope, and from hope to trust and confidence. People today feel that they and their future are in safe hands.

Winning elections is an important part of the life of a political party. In the last one year the BJP has faced elections in eight states, lost one and formed governments in the remaining seven. Two of these elections have become much talked about – Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir.

Politics sometimes present us difficult choices – difficulty but choice too. A pragmatic politician should look at the choices also, which we did in J&K. Contrary to propaganda in some sections we didn't compromise even an inch on national or state interest while exploring options to serve the people of the state for which an overwhelming mandate was given to us. "Compromise is to politics what devotion is to friendship", said John Morley in his book *Compromise*.^[1] But we proved in

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J&K that not compromise, but conviction is what drives our politics.

In victory or alliance or defeat our distinct politics has played an important role. A cadre-based party like the BJP can afford to lose elections but not the faith of the cadres. In victories and defeats this is the lesson we have learnt.

People saw in Modi a leader with integrity and honesty. One year down the line people are not disappointed. We have not only run a clean Government but demonstrated our commitment to transparency and accountability in public life. We are giving great push to e-governance and digital India programmes that ensure greater transparency in governance.

The biggest asset for this Government in its fight against

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“Compromise is to politics what devotion is to friendship”, said John Morley in his book *Compromise*.^[1] But we proved in J&K that not compromise, but conviction is what drives our politics.”

corruption has been the incorruptible leadership of the Prime Minister himself. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had once said during his regime that corruption should be eradicated from the top. It is not enough to catch hold of a small time corrupt official in a local office and pretend that we are fighting against corruption. It has to be removed from the top so that the process can percolate downwards. Under PM Modi we have achieved that.

Development inspired by the spirit of 'Antyodaya' – welfare of the last

man is an article of faith with this Government. For Congress, poor – like the minorities – are just a vote bank. Perpetuating poverty, not ending it, has been their politics. As long as there are poor people there will be the Congress brand politics of the poor where you only have to invent a new slogan every now and then. How else can we explain the dismal situation after six decades of independence and so much cacophony about Garibi Hatao etc that our BPL population is 45% and 60% of our rural women don't have access to toilets? Who is responsible for the situation wherein 20 million youngsters join workforce every year whereas we add not even 2 million jobs leaving close to 18 million jobless every year?

For BJP, not just alleviating, but completely annihilating poverty is the target. We are not the merchants of the poor like the Congress party; we are a death-knell to poverty. The Modi Government has launched several programs like Jan Dhan Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and irrigation schemes etc to wage a war on poverty. Its Skill Development and Make in India campaigns are aimed at generating employment to millions of able youngsters.

Infrastructure is key to development and prosperity.

Infrastructure development has great potential for employment generation too. Thanks to decades of misrule our infrastructure is in a pathetic condition. Modi Government has accorded highest priority to this core sector. Towards that end a responsible and humane amendment is sought to be added by this Government in land acquisition. For over a century we struggled with an obsolete and anti-farmer Land Acquisition Act of 1894. In 2013 the UPA Government had introduced some amendments to it that swung the pendulum to the other extreme harming the cause of the land owners as well as infrastructure developers including the Government.

In order to achieve a balance the Modi Government has introduced Fair Compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act – 2014 that seeks to ensure highest levels of compensation to the farmers while assuring infrastructure development that is much needed to kick start our stagnant economy. One of the main reasons for poverty in our country is that almost 55% of our population – majority young – are forced to depend on agriculture that produces 15-20% output. In China, only 15% population is dependent on agriculture. In order to make agriculture profitable we

“One year down the line people are not disappointed. We have not only run a clean Government but demonstrated our commitment to transparency and accountability in public life.”

need to find alternative means of employment for unemployed and under-employed rural youth through manufacturing, big industry, infrastructure etc.

India prides itself over its great youth bulge. We are a nation with around 60% population under the age of 35 years. We enjoy the advantage of this demographic dividend which many countries in the world don't. However we must remember that this demographic dividend is not going to last for more than a decade or so. Already our birth rates are stagnating. If we miss exploiting the dividend now; if we fail to use the energy, talent and skills of our young workforce we are going to be the biggest losers. We wouldn't have that opportunity again after a decade.

The reforms to the Land Acquisition Act or the push given to development in infra-related areas

“The biggest asset for this Government in its fight against corruption has been the incorruptible leadership of the Prime Minister himself. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had once said during his regime that corruption should be eradicated from the top. It is not enough to catch hold of a small time corrupt official in a local office and pretend that we are fighting against corruption. It has to be removed from the top so that the process can percolate downwards. Under PM Modi we have achieved that.”

like mining etc should be seen from this perspective. They are not meant to help the corporates; instead they are going to be a boon for the poor and under-developed sections of our society.

Some of the Opposition parties have indulged in a misinformation campaign about the proposed reforms. They tried to project as though the Modi Government was going to introduce a new land Acquisition Act and it is out to grab

away the lands of all the farmers of the country. Facts are otherwise. The draconian nature of the Land Acquisition Act is in fact the gift of the Nehru Government immediately after Independence. In all these decades the Congress party has been exploiting poor farmers by taking away their lands in the name of infrastructure without even paying basic compensation. Thousands of cases are pending in courts across the country in which the hapless farmers are fighting against insensitive governments for proper compensation to the loss of their land and livelihood. Proposed amendment act is essentially meant to address this problem. Also the fact is that even if we succeed in achieving our infrastructure goals in next ten years by 2025 the Government is not going to utilise more than 2% of the land. Out of that 2% also, the proposed amendment act stipulates that priority will be given to waste land. It shows how hollow the criticism has been. Short-sighted criticism and campaigns by the Opposition parties to stall these progressive reforms will only hurt the poor. Our Government is committed to going ahead with the reforms so that we can win a decisive war on poverty in the next 10 years.

We have no hesitation in claiming

that what that Modi Government has done for the welfare of the poor in last one year is much more than what the previous Government has done in ten years. In ten years the UPA has had two major pro-poor programmes - MNREGA and Food Security. The second one is yet to fully take off and in any case it was already being implemented by many State Governments run by the BJP. But in just one year's time the Modi Government has introduced five major programmes for the welfare of the poor.

The Jan Dhan Yojna has brought 135 million Indian poor into the banking net and made them equal stakeholders in our economy. Also today the lives of the poor and the rich will both have equal dignity; even the poor have secured insurance for their lives through this scheme. Swacch Bharat Abhiyan is not just about cleanliness alone. It is in reality a boon to the womenfolk of our country. Campaign to build millions of toilets in schools, public places and rural areas is essentially for the health, security and dignity of our women. Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao is similarly a program to empower women of the country. Atal Pension Yojna has provided life security to old age poor by offering them lifelong pension irrespective of

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whether they worked in a government or not. No elder will now be forced to struggle in his old age nor is he forced to beg on the streets, a common tragic sight in many Indian towns and cities. The Government's irrigation programmes will be a boon to small and medium farmers.

To put it succinctly Modi Government is the most poor-friendly Government ever. In PM Modi we have a leader who cares.

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Have we ever seen a Prime Minister who would ask his people to give up privileges like gas cylinders in order to benefit the poor? Have we heard any other Prime Minister admonishing his own people for not caring to discipline their own male child in order to secure the life and dignity of the females in the country? Have we seen any political leader asking people to hold the broom and clean the roads while

leading from the front? These are all politically 'costly' risks. Only a leader with courage and vision, one with 56” chest, can only take up these issues. PM Modi is a leader with conscience and courage. That is why he gave a call to eradicate the scourge called manual scavenging completely.

In 2003 while cruising along the Shanghai River and looking at the Chinese economic miracle PM Vajpayee had commented that India lost 20 years. In early eighties India and China were both at the same economic level. PM Modi is determined that we shouldn't lose another 20 years now.

Negative politics may serve the Opposition in the short term. But PM Modi is a leader with a long term vision. He is here to unleash the great potential that India has. People have faith in him; and under his leadership our Government shall take the country to newer heights.

ENDNOTE

[1] John Morley (1838-1923), British liberal politician, journalist, author was Member of Parliament in 1883 and later served as Secretary of State for India between crucial years of 1905 and 1910. Morley wrote his political treatise “On Compromise” in 1874.

Make in India: Creating a Mark in Less Than a Year

• *Shubhendu Anand*

In September 2014, PM Narendra Modi launched 'Make In India' initiative to encourage companies to manufacture their products in India in order to make India the world's manufacturing hub apart from increasing GDP growth and tax revenue and attracting capital and technological investment in India.

The latest Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020) and overall policy agenda focuses on establishing India as a manufacturing hub with export capacity. It also involves deepening India's regional trade engagements with nations that are potential markets for Indian goods and are major suppliers of some strategic inputs.

The NDA Government's Union Budget 2015 was also designed to give a big thrust to the ambitious

Make In India project. With the Union Budget, basic rate of Corporate Tax was reduced from 30% to 25% in next 4 years; accompanied by reducing exemptions. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had also announced an annual flow of Rs 20,000 crore for National Investment and Infrastructure Fund. To promote the small business units, GOI has come up with Micro Units' Development and Re-finance Agency (MUDRA) as a sole regulator for all micro finance institutions in order to bring uniformity of regulations in this context.

Government has taken a bold step in increasing the FDI cap in defence production up to 49 per cent, 100 per cent in railway infrastructure and proposing to raise the cap in



insurance sector also from 26 per cent to 49 per cent by way of Insurance Laws (amendment) bill 2015 which has been lately passed by both the Houses of the Parliament. FDI in defense manufacturing will not only curtail the import bills but also expand the manufacturing base in India. FDI in railways has led to drastic technological advancements in recent few months in Indian railways and more infrastructural developments are in pipeline. FDI in insurance is expected to pool \$10 billion investments and create thousands of employment opportunities. With clever resource allocation, India can become a global manufacturing hub in sectors like Automobiles & auto components, pharmaceutical, textiles, gems & jewellery, leather goods, IT hardware and solar power.

The Make In India campaign — launched on September 25 last year by the Modi Government with the objective of turning the country into a global manufacturing hub — has managed to create a buzz especially among foreign manufacturing giants who are more than eager to start and expand their manufacturing base in India. This is evident from the fact that the Growth in Gross Value Added (GVA) in manufacturing picked up

from 3.6% in Q3 to a robust 8.4% in Q4. For the whole fiscal of FY15, growth was 7.1% compared with 5.3% in FY14.

According to a recent report by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) FDI inflow also increased since the Make In India initiative was launched. FDI inflows during October 2014-March 2015 were \$23.33 billion, an increase of 37% from \$17.05 billion in the same period a year ago.

Response to 'Make In India' has been overwhelming since its launch in September, 2014. In January 2015, the Spice Group said it would start a mobile phone manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh with an investment of Rs. 500 crore. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Spice Group and the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. In the same month HyunChil Hong, the President & CEO of Samsung South West Asia, met with Shri Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), to discuss a joint initiative under which 10 "MSME-Samsung Technical Schools" will be established in India.

In February 2015, Hitachi said it was committed to the initiative. It said that it would increase its employees in India from 10,000 to

13,000 and it would try to increase its revenues from India from 100 billion Japanese Yen in 2013 to 210 billion Japanese Yen. It said that an auto-component plant will be set up in Chennai in 2016. In February itself, Huawei opened a new research and development (R&D) campus in Bangaluru. It had invested US\$ 170 million to establish the research and development centre. Also in February, Marine Products Export Development Authority said that it was interested in supplying shrimp eggs to shrimp farmers in India under the initiative

Most recent developments include L&T's agreement with Hyundai Heavy Industries for technology transfer to build carriers for LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) in Tamil Nadu, Motorola evaluating production in India, Nivea opening its first manufacturing plant in Gujarat, Xiaomi's said plans to set up manufacturing and R&D units in India. Samsung has indicated that it will start manufacturing Galaxy S6 and Z1 in its Indian facilities.

As Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi marks his first year in power, the impact of the 'Make In India' policy is already apparent in the automobile sector. One of the sectors believed to be leading Make In India initiative from the front is the automotive industry. Auto

giants like Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes, Honda, Daimler, among others have reiterated their commitment to manufacturing state-of-the-art technology in their India-based factories. Two-wheeler manufacturer Honda Motor has stated it wants India to be its largest two-wheeler operation globally. BMW has increased localization by upto 50% in India. GM aims to make India its new global manufacturing and export powerhouse in the coming years.

The projects are far-reaching, covering both original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and component suppliers, domestic companies and international majors. While some projects may have already been in the pipeline regardless of government policy, some companies, such as Germany's Volkswagen, have named 'Make In India' as a factor in their decision.

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(Shubhendu Anand is Research Associate at SPMRF)

A Few Success Stories of “Make in India” Campaign

• *Rastriya Prahari*

Prim Minister Narendra Modi launched the “Make in India” campaign on September 25, 2014. With one million people to enter the job market each month, creating opportunities for such a vast talent pool is a humongous task. Jobs need to be created in both organized and unorganized sectors. The efforts in improving the unorganized sector outlook is a story for another day. If we look at some of the early success stories of the “Make in India” campaign then of course, we need to be cognizant of the fact that many projects are in the early stages and it would take time to see the results. However, it would be interesting to know the sectors/ industries/ companies that have brought into this idea.

Electronics:

Foxconn, the manufacturer of Apple's iPhones has announced plans for creating 10-12 facilities in India, which will include factories and data centres. Foxconn expects to sign the first contract by the end of 2015. That Foxconn chose India following various issues it faced in its Chinese facilities, bolsters the “Make in India” campaign. The

advantages the arrival of a big company to the country can be manifold.

Foxconn's arrival can trigger the arrival of companies along its supply chain and also help to multiply the indirect jobs created due to this. There have already been reports of Oppo mobiles starting its manufacturing plant by August this year. ZTE Corporation, another Chinese telecom major, has completed its recce to set up its manufacturing facility in India. With e-business on the rise, there are plenty of other players waiting on the wings to explore the large market. Another Chinese mobile handset maker Phicomm has also committed to invest \$100mn in the next 3 years to market its products and at the same time, they are exploring to set up a manufacturing facility here.

Automobiles:

Mercedes Benz has come into the “Make in India” programme in two different areas. Firstly, in the luxury car segments, it has decided to manufacture more of its components in India – thus increasing the localization of its new model C220 CDI to 60%. Secondly,

Mercedes Benz has also decided to manufacture its luxury buses in India, to be exported to Africa and South East Asian markets. The trials have already begun and full-fledged exports will start from early 2016.

Competition for low cost manufacturing cannot be underestimated. Following Mercedes's lead, its German competitor BMW has also decided to increase its localization to 50%. BMW has already signed deals with approximately 20 companies who supply its components. Volvo is also now in the exploratory stage of exporting its range of buses to other markets. Renault, the French automobile major, has also improved localization of its KWID model to 98% – the KWID is expected to be launched later this year. The US behemoth, Ford, has also committed to invest Rs 4000 to Rs 5000cr for R&D, in its Chennai facility.

Defense:

Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) of South Korea will work with Hindustan Shipyard Limited at Vishakhapatnam to build warships in India. Currently, the duration from the point of order to delivery takes around 6 years. With such a collaboration, this gap is expected to fall to 2.5 years. Though in very early stages of discussion, HHI has

indicated that the objective is to outsource the manufacturing of small and medium size ships to India. The initial understanding was completed during PM Modi's recent visit to South Korea.

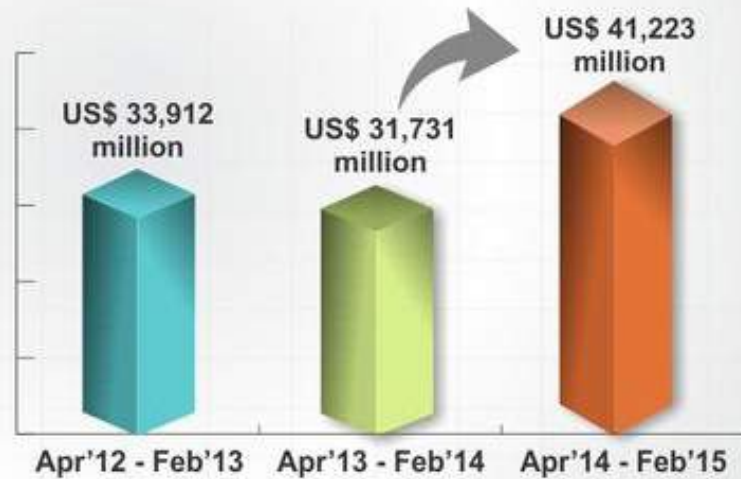
Another South Korean major, Samsung, has also agreed to build LNG tankers with Kochi Shipyard. Another decision made recently was that Goa shipyard will construct 12 minesweepers for the Indian navy at a cost of 1 billion USD. The Gurgaon based Sun Group, is in discussion with Russia, to manufacture 200 Kamov Ka 226 light helicopters in Punjab. The German and US defence ministers were in India recently to push sale of their products and there have been news reports that India will engage with them, only if there is a “Make in India” component in the deal.

Railways:

Recently, Indian Railways has invited bids by international suppliers for the procurement and manufacture of 15 train sets. Two train sets will be imported, whereas the remainder will need to be manufactured in India – which will result in 40 coaches to be imported and 275 coaches will be manufactured in India. The whole project is estimated to be worth around Rs. 2,500cr. These train sets will be used on faster inter-city

Huge Surge in FDI inflows under Modi Govt

Make in India & Transparent Governance reap FDI Bonanza



Total FDI inflows into India = Equity inflows + Re-invested earnings + Other capital

Source: Reserve Bank of India

travel routes.

PM Modi during his recent visit to Berlin, visited the Berlin Central Train Station (Berlin Hauptbahnhof) to inspect the infrastructure and other facilities. Also Railway Minister, Suresh Prabhu, in his recent interviews has suggested that he will look to capitalize on various assets of railways like land, optical fibers, etc. If these ideas go per plan, there are many more job opportunities possible.

Aviation:

There are two parts in this segment. Firstly, in military aviation, the recent deal with France on Rafale jets is well publicized. Whatever the politics of the deal is, the Indian Government has been able to extract substantial investment in

India in the future. Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar has gone on record to say that 50% of the total deal value, approx. \$4bn will be invested in India within the defence and aerospace sector. Secondly, in civil aviation, Airbus has also announced that it has joined the “Make in India” bandwagon. To this extent, Airbus has already announced restructuring of its organization in India and the new CEO has announced that Airbus exports will reach \$2bn from India. Pratt and Whitney, a US based firm, has also evinced interest in setting up its facilities in India. Like in the automobile sector, aviation also has the potential to create many upstream and downstream jobs along the supply chain.

Sources: Government Websites

One Year of Transformation (Modi@365)

• *Siddharth Singh*

From day one PM Modi and his colleagues knew that the burden of expectations on him was huge and he would have to stand up to far greater level of public scrutiny than his predecessors. As the Modi Government has recently completed its one year in office, the yardstick for evaluating and analysing his performance will have to be different than what was there for Manmohan Singh or Atal Bihari Vajpayee, or PV Narshimha Rao etc.

It can be safely said that PM Modi is gradually moving towards becoming a world leader. The world is curious to know more about him and he is curious to know the world. His critics may be harsh on him because critics have not been able to find a single concrete issue in which they can encircle Modi. A year could be too less a time to change the fate of the nation and its people, as big and as diverse as India but still a good beginning with solid foundation has been laid down by the PM so that the benefit of these long term policies can be reaped further in future.

A year ago the BJP's catch phrases, Acche din and Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas caught popular fancy and Abki Bar Modi Sarkar became a

reality. Narendra Modi achieved something that no other leader and party could achieve for the last 30 years—an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha on its own. Even those who didn't vote for him passionately debated for him. It was one election where instead of 10 years of UPA's rule, Modi had become an issue. That is not to suggest that a scam tainted UPA's misadventures didn't shape public mind. Laced with powerful oratory and an able administrator with a proven track record in Gujarat, PM Modi was seen as a development messiah. Thus from day one Modi and his party colleagues knew that the burden of expectations on him was huge and he would have to stand up to a far greater level of public scrutiny than his predecessors.

Modi unexpectedly began on a strong diplomatic note, taking everyone by surprise by inviting heads of governments of all neighbouring countries. In his first Independence Day speech from the Red Fort he touched the hearts of millions in the country. For the first time, as far as recent memory goes, a Prime Minister talked on social issues, which concerned almost every household, particularly about their outlook towards girls, health

hygiene conditions and basic cleanliness. He spoke in a language that was understandable to everyone. Sauchalaya (toilets) and Swachh Bharat became the new mission mode projects.

While doing so, during the last one year Narendra Modi, has presented himself not just as the head of the Government at the centre, but as a motivational leader of the Government who was constantly seeking to inject self-confidence and inner belief among people at large. He has repeatedly talked about team India and cooperative federalism.

Parliament is central to the concept of parliamentary democracy. The Modi Government has succeeded in making Parliament work overtime and in passing 47 Bills in the last one year. Taxation reform legislation GST, a Constitutional amendment Bill, has been passed by the Lok Sabha but had to be sent to Select Committee in Rajya Sabha.

Guided by the principle of Antyodaya, the Modi Government has dedicated most of the policies to the poor, marginalized and those left behind. The Government is working towards empowering them so that the poor can become a soldier in the war against poverty. Numerous measures and schemes have been initiated – from making

school toilets to setting up IITs, IIMs and AIIMS; from providing a vaccination cover to children to initiating a people-driven Swachh Bharat mission; from ensuring a minimum pension to our labourers to providing social security to the common man; from enhancing support to farmers hit by natural calamities to defending their interests at WTO; from empowering one and all with self-attestation to delivering subsidies directly to people's banks; from universalizing the banking system to funding the unfunded small businesses; from irrigating fields to rejuvenating Ma Ganga; from moving towards 24×7 power to connecting the nation through road and rail; from building homes for the homeless to setting up smart cities, and from connecting the North-East to prioritizing development of Eastern India.

Talking about the importance of completion of one year on 26th May 2015, PM Modi said in his one of interview to a news agency that “Dukh Bhare din Bite Re Bhaiya” which means that Acche Din are here. Although employment generation and complete recovery of economy will certainly take some time but a rock solid foundation has been laid and a fresh beginning has been made by the Modi Government.

(Siddharth Singh is Research Associate at SPMRF)

Boost to Agriculture & Infrastructure: 8 Important Decisions Taken by Modi Government in Last Fortnight

From steps to check the rising price of pulses to ensuring smooth supply of urea in southern states, the Modi Government recently approved a slew of measures to boost agriculture, international highways and a beleaguered sugar industry. Here's what it approved:

1) The Cabinet approved import of lentils in large quantities to boost supply and also asked states to take action against hoarders. Pulses prices have risen by up to 64 per cent in the last one year as the domestic production fell by nearly two million tonnes in 2014-15 crop year due to unfavourable weather conditions. Expressing concern over rising pulse prices, the Cabinet decided to import pulses in whatever quantity is required, directing state governments to take strict action against hoarders.

2) To ensure smooth supply of urea in southern states, the Centre approved continuation of its production from three plants that use naphtha as feedstock till availability of gas through pipelines or any other means. The decision is meant to ensure smooth supply of fertiliser in the southern states. The total requirement of Karnataka,

Tamil Nadu and Kerala is 23 lakh tonne (LT), and the annual production of these three units is 15 LT per annum.

3) The Cabinet has approved signing of the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic among BBIN. The agreement will be signed on June 15 at the BBIN transport ministers meeting in Thimpu, Bhutan. Signing of the BBIN Agreement will promote safe, economical, efficient and environmentally sound road transport in the sub-region and will further help each country in creating an institutional mechanism for regional integration.

4) The Cabinet has also approved the Ratification of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention on the Seafarers Identity Document. A biometric based seafarer's identity document will be developed, mainly, to ensure a fool proof security system to ward off the potential risk of breach of security and possible terrorist attacks. India's ratification of this Convention will benefit Indian seafarers, who may otherwise find a

threat to their job opportunities, in the near future, in the global maritime sector if India doesn't ratify the Convention.

5) To help the industry clear its cane dues arrears, the Cabinet has approved the proposal to provide soft loans to the extent of Rs 6,000 crore to the sugar industry. CCEA has provided a one year moratorium on this loan, and will bear the interest subvention cost to the extent of Rs 600 crore for the said period. To ensure that farmers are paid their dues expeditiously, the Centre has mandated that banks will obtain from the sugar mill, the list of farmers with bank account details to the extent cane dues are to be paid, so that the same are directly paid into the account of the farmers on behalf of the sugar mills. Subsequent balance if any, will then be credited into the mill account.

6) The Cabinet has approved the development of the four lanning of the Guna-Biaora and Biaora-Dewas section of National Highway 3 in Madhya Pradesh with an estimate cost of Rs 2815.69 crore. This work will be under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase IV. The approval is in Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis in BOT (Toll) mode. The cost is estimated to be Rs 1,081.9 crore for Guna-Biaora including cost of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and

other preconstruction activities. The total length of the road will be approximately 93.5 kms.

7) The Cabinet also approved the Shipping Ministry's proposal for India's accession to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (Bunker Convention) of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] as well as to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 to give effect to the Bunker Convention, Nairobi Convention and Salvage Convention. The Bunker Convention ensures adequate, prompt, and effective compensation for damage caused by spills of oil, when carried as fuel in ships' bunkers. The territorial jurisdiction for damage compensation extends to territorial sea and exclusive economic zones. It applies to an Indian vessel, wherever it is situated, and to a foreign flag vessel while it is within Indian jurisdiction.

8) The Cabinet has given its approval for making four lanes in the Yadgiri-Warangal section of National Highway 163 in Telangana. This work will be under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase IV. The approval is in Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis. The cost is estimated to be Rs.1905.23 crore.

SPMRF Desk

Modi Govt's 6000 Crore Relief to Sugarcane Farmers



To help the industry clear its cane dues arrears, the Modi Government has decided to provide soft loans to the extent of Rs. 6000 crore to the sugar industry. Government has provided a one year moratorium on this loan, and will bear the interest subvention cost to the extent of Rs. 600 crore for the said period. To ensure that farmers are paid their dues expeditiously, the Government has mandated that banks will obtain from sugar mills, the list of farmers with bank account details to the extent cane dues are to be paid, so that the same are directly paid into

the account of the farmers on behalf of the sugar mills. Subsequent balance if any, will then be credited into the mill account. Furthermore, in order to incentivize the mills to clear their dues, the Central Government has also decided that the approved soft loans will be provided to those units which clear at least 50 percent of their outstanding arrears before 30th June, 2015.

The Government, in fact, has taken several steps in the last one year to mitigate the situation and protect the livelihoods of cane farmers. To improve the liquidity of sugar mills

MODI GOVERNMENT'S MAJOR RELIEF TO SUGARCANE FARMERS

- ✓ Loans of Rs. 6000 Crore approved to clear Arrear Payments of Cane Farmers
- ✓ Government to bear Interest cost of Rs. 600 Crore on these Loans
- ✓ Loans to Sugar Mills which clear at least 50% Arrears before 30th June 2015
- ✓ Banks to directly pay the Arrears into the Bank Accounts of the Farmers

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?nid=122418>

#TrustModiSarkaar /BJP4India /YuvaITV NITI

and facilitate payment of cane dues arrears, the Government has increased the export incentive on raw sugar from Rs 3200/MT to Rs. 4000/MT. Funds have been allocated to support 14 lac MT (LMT) of raw sugar exports as against 7.5 LMT achieved last year.

The Government has also fixed remunerative prices for ethanol supplied for blending with petrol. It has dismantled the tender based price discovery procedures for ethanol and fixed attractive prices for ethanol supplied for petrol blending. Prices were fixed at Rs.48.50 to 49.50 per litre depending on distance from the depot thereby effectively giving Rs.42 per litre to the mill as against Rs.32 per litre last year. As a result, the supply levels of ethanol, which were about 32 crore liters per year, shot upto a level of 83 crore litre per

annum. It has also been decided to waive the excise duties on ethanol in the next sugar season to further incentivize ethanol supplies for the blending programme. This would further increase the ex mill price of ethanol and help improve the liquidity of the industry and enable them to clear the cane price arrears.

Furthermore, to improve the price sentiments of sugar, the Government has also increased the import duty to 40 percent, and abolished the Duty Free Import Authorization Scheme. To prevent possible leakages of sugar in the domestic markets, the Government has also reduced the export obligation period from 18 months to 6 months under the Advanced Authorization Scheme.

SPMRF Desk

#Myanmmar Operation: The Indian Hot Pursuit

• *Siddharth Singh*

The successful strike by the Indian Army's Special Forces against militants holed up on the other side of the India-Myanmar border marks an important and welcome change in the country's policy towards terrorism. The strike shows that the Narendra Modi Government is willing to adopt 'hot pursuit', if need be. The Special Forces of the Army carried out two operations against militants along the International Border with Myanmar and inflicted "significant casualties" on them. This action was in response to an ambush by group of NSCN(K), KYKL and KLA on an Indian Army convoy in Chandel district of Manipur in which 18 soldiers had died. The strikes were carried out by commandos in coordination with Myanmar authorities on specific intelligence inputs. The NSCN(K), which ended a 14-year ceasefire agreement with the Central Government in April this year, has so far killed 30 Army and Assam Rifles soldiers in three attacks in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur in the last two months. This group has claimed responsibility for all the three attacks. The response, both a punitive as well as pre-emptive

strike after information was gathered, was quick. No doubt it will send a message. The army and intelligence agencies can provide the inputs and menu of options, but in the end such operations require a political call. The risk lies substantially with the political leadership. The decision to move in and move so decisively was ultimately that of the Prime Minister. The fact that the mission achieved its goals is a reflection of PM Modi's no-nonsense reputation. Seen alongside the tough - and in purely military terms even disproportionate - response to Pakistani incursions in the summer of 2014, it will reinforce the message that if and when challenged, Modi's Government will do its utmost to impose costs on the challenger. The biggest plus from the Myanmar operation will be the boost it has given to the Indian Army and to intelligence agencies. A big and difficult mission, involving perfect matching of actionable intelligence and precise delivery, has been accomplished. The political leadership has given the army the necessary cover to push ahead. This is the way of confident nations.

(Siddharth Singh is Research Associate at SPMRF)

Speaking for Indianising Education

• Anirban Ganguly

When one talks of Indianising education, one fundamentally argues for recovering that harvest of the past and for re-stating it authentically in the present context through a rejection of insular modernity.

It is the effects of a prolonged exposure to a non-Indianised education system which sees a volume on the Makers of Modern India omit with flourish, chapters on Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo and Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. This author without realising the debilitating and subconscious effects that a calcified and unimaginative education system has had on him, argued, that since “their (Sri Aurobindo's, S Radhakrishnan's) influence never really extended beyond the middle class; nor did it last much beyond their death” both these figures were now passé.

However, it is in his omission of Swami Vivekananda, that the author not only displayed a deep disconnect with the Indian psyche but also revealed the stunting effects that a deracinated education has on the shaping of one's worldview or one's understanding of India. Ironically, while Swami Vivekananda continues to shape and inspire the imagination of a large section of Indian youth, while his influence and touch

continues to be felt in the farthest corner of the land and beyond - inspiring people to give up on accrued comfort and to take up life-long causes for welfare, humanism and amelioration of social conditions, while thinkers of the past — such as Romain Rolland and a host of others — and those of the present such as the philosopher and legendary professor of international economics Jean Pierre Lehmann, to name just one, have acknowledged their intellectual and philosophical debt to Swami Vivekananda, our public intellectual in question, has argued that Vivekananda's influence “has passed.”

The essential issue that seeks recognition is that it is the effects of a non-Indianised education that sees young minds in India remain ignorant of Sri Aurobindo and of S Radhakrishnan and of their prodigious and profound civilisational and philosophical articulations that continue to remain relevant, but are well conversant and regurgitate with ease any second hand or superficial study of India that goes in the name of an “alternate” view.

It is ironical that while so much of the “alternate” view of India and of the Hindus float around and are

submissively absorbed and parroted by a section, one hardly hears names of those who presented the actual authentic study and narrative of India and spent a lifetime articulating these. Names such as those of John Woodroffe, Stella Kramrisch, Sylvain Lévi, Louis Renou or Jean Filliozat are practically unheard of today. In fact, there has been a virtual conspiracy of silence, an academic-apartheid of sorts in the mainstream academia or the education curriculum in India against these thinkers and against introducing their thoughts. When one talks of Indianising education one essentially argues for reinstating these powerful and epochal minds and their universe at the centre of our education system and discourse.

Interestingly, the globalist and internationalist Rabindranath Tagore too was deeply disturbed by a piecemeal approach to the study and description of Indian civilisation. While asking Indians to drink deep from the fountains of the West, Tagore also often expressed his anguish at the way Indians were taught to perceive themselves. In a 1903 essay in Bengali on the history of Bharatvarsha, Tagore argued “that by not viewing Bharatvarsha from Bharatvarsha's own perspective, since our very childhood we learn to demean her and in consequence we get demeaned ourselves.”

Discussing the biased and

compartmentalised manner in which Indian history was taught, he argued in the same essay that, “Those histories make you feel that at that time Bharatavarsha did not exist at all; as though only the howling whirlwind of the Pathans and the Mughals holding aloft the banner of dry leaves had been moving round and round across the country from north to south and east to west. ... However, while the lands of the aliens existed, there also existed the indigenous country. Otherwise, in the midst of all the turbulence, who gave birth to the likes of Kabir, Guru Nanak, Chaitanya, and Tukaram? It was not that only Delhi and Agra existed then, there were also Kasi and Navadvipa. The current of life that was flowing then in the real Bharatavarsha, the ripples of efforts rising there and the social changes that were taking place — none of these find an account in our history textbooks.”

When one talks of Indianising education one essentially argues for rediscovering and reconnecting with that “current of life” which flowed in Bharatvarsha, with that “indigenous country” and its many achievements and for including them in “our history textbooks” and accounts. The thought of evolving a balanced and authentic narrative of India seemed to have pursued Tagore even later. In 1919, while delivering his talk on the “Centre of Indian Culture”, in

Madras, at the invitation of Annie Besant, perhaps the first talk he delivered in English, the poet was even more direct, cautioning against the tendency of becoming “insularly modern.” “There are some”, pointed out Tagore, “who are insularly modern, who believe that the past is the bankrupt time, leaving no assets for us, but only a legacy of debts. They refuse to believe that the Army that is marching forward can be fed from the rear. It is well to remind them that the great ages of renaissance in history were those when men suddenly discovered the seeds of thoughts in the granary of the past. The unfortunate people, who have lost the harvest of their past, have lost their present age.”

The poet exhorted his young audience to take help of the “treasure trove of our ancestors” and make their future their own and “never continue our existence as the eternal rag-picker at other people's dustbins.” When one talks of Indianising education, one fundamentally argues for recovering that “harvest of the past” and for restating it authentically in the present context through a rejection of insular modernity.

In her essay, *Place of Foreign Culture in a true Education*, Sister Nivedita, for example, put forth a crucial argument in her characteristic style when she said, “it would be a sin to bring up an Indian child on anything

but the Mahabharata (including the entire gamut of Indian scriptures, epics, kathas). But if he could not, when educated, appreciate the poetry of Homer, that fact would mean a limitation of his culture. A thorough training in our own ideals is the only preparation for an enjoyment of all. We learn our own, in order to enjoy all...But we must not seek to reverse the process. We must not seek through Alfred Tennyson to produce the love of Ramayana. Such shilly-shallying can induce only an imitative and bastard culture.” When one speaks of Indianising education one intrinsically aspires to encourage a “training in our own ideals” first, or as Aurobindo indicated in his essays on national education, a training from the near to the far.

The Indianisation of education also seeks to evolve and create true teachers of Indian traditions and of India, as Ananda Coomaraswamy noted once, “none can be true educators of the Indian people who do not inherit their traditions, or cannot easily work in a spirit of perfect reverence for those traditions. Others can be, not educators, but merely teachers of particular subjects.” The debate on the Indianisation of education is a welcome breeze; it offers an opportunity, long denied, for reassessing our civilisational self.

Courtesy: The Daily Pioneer, OpEd, 10 June 2015

Modi@365: How PM Modi Dismantled The Transfer-Posting Industry

• *Uday Mahurkar*



When former ICICI chairman KV Kamath was appointed chairman of the BRICS bank by the Modi government recently, he was pleasantly surprised because he had not expected it. It was a case similar to that of Subhash Garg, a secretary in the Rajasthan government, who was appointed executive director of the World Bank. It came totally out of the blue to him. And not without reason, because the convention has been that these posts don't come without lobbying and those in the prime minister's office (PMO) or close to it are favoured contenders. Moreover, even the post of the Union petroleum secretary, which

has been, in the past, dictated by corporate houses on a few occasions, went to a man who didn't expect it at all – KD Tripathi, a straightforward Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the northeast cadre.

Clearly, as the dust settles on the debate over how the Narendra Modi government fared in its first year, the most glorious of its achievements has been missed or has got relegated to the background - dismantling of the transfer-posting industry in the top bureaucratic echelons of Delhi. If one goes into history, it has been one of the primary causes of the failure

of the Indian delivery system when it comes to results on the ground which the late Rajiv Gandhi had encapsulated very precisely: "When I release one rupee from Delhi, only 15 paisa reaches the end beneficiary."

Such a clean-up of the bureaucracy is happening for the first time in three decades – or to be precise, since 1980 when the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after her 1977 debacle decided to put personal loyalty above all and started tolerating corruption as a necessary evil. Amid arguments and counter-arguments as to how the Modi government did in various areas since it took over the reigns, this has been its most conscious attempt to clear the delivery system clogged by corruption and nepotism, a step necessary to translate government programmes into results for the benefit of the last person in the society.

The biggest change he has brought about is that the selection of top level officers is now being done by the cabinet secretariat and the PMO and the respective minister's role is now almost non-existent. During ten years of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), ministers were allowed to choose their own secretaries which was one of the main reasons for pliant and corrupt

officers being posted. In one case, the National Highway Authority chairman was changed four times in a short span of time at the instance of a minister because the chairmen were not adequately submissive to the minister. Former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai said: "The earlier practice of allowing the ministers to choose his top level officers, in fact, destroyed the civil services because it resulted in massive lobbying at the ministerial level forced by extraneous objectives. Prime Minister Modi has indeed brought a lot of objectivity by stopping this practice and further showing his own commitment to the cause by getting an upright officer like PK Mishra to oversee postings in the PMO as his principal secretary."

Gone are the days when key postings were decided in Delhi's five-star hotels. This is a major development for India as those who acquire a post through lobbying must either recover the money they have paid for the post or oblige their patrons after being posted. Many still believe that corruption in the bureaucracy has been one of the main reasons for India's backwardness since independence – something that started in a closed economy and went on even after it was opened.

True, postings of key officials are no longer decided in the power corridors or at late night dinner meetings in hotels as used to be the case under many governments of the past, but by diligent hands in the ministry of personnel, the cabinet secretariat and finally the PMO, who work for hours scouting for the right person for the right job. That Modi was committed to this from day one became clear when he appointed his former principal secretary in Gujarat and retired IAS officer PK Mishra as his principal secretary in charge of appointments with clear-cut instructions to clear the mess.

Mishra has devised new methods of due diligence for knowing the true worth of an officer before his final selection which go much beyond the usual perusal of the records of the officers. It involves Mishra's staff making elaborate inquiries from external and multiple sources about the reputation of the officer and his suitability for the job he is being considered for. Since the Modi government took over, over 550 postings have been made of officers of the level of secretary, joint secretary and additional secretary and almost all were done with objectivity and without lobbying.

Interestingly, with an eye on

selecting right people for the right jobs, some very innovative postings have been made in the larger interest of good governance. Take the case of Sanjay Chadda, an officer in the Indian Railways. His expertise in economics came to the notice of the Modi government when he was a member of the committee headed by Bibek Debroy on railway reform. Next, he was posted as a joint secretary in the commerce ministry. The praiseworthy part is that even IAS officers posted in states can hope to get big postings in Delhi which earlier they thought they would never get unless they were already serving in Delhi or had the right "pull and push" in the corridors of power in Delhi. According to Rai, the objectivity in postings is exemplary. Mishra said: "Merit in the form of transparency and efficiency are the government's sole guiding factors when it comes to bureaucratic and even other appointments".

The best example of dismantling of the transfer-posting raj is in the Indian Railways, where many posts in the Railway Board and even those of general managers carried a price tag under many past governments. It is to the great credit of the Modi government and the PMO in particular, that in a short span, it

has helped appoint 26 people as general managers and five members of the Railway Board, including the chairman in the most transparent manner which has no parallel in Indian Railways in the past 35 years. Significantly, as soon as Suresh Prabhu took over as the railway minister, he had requested the cabinet secretariat and the PMO to help him in appointing good officers.

Interestingly, the figures that went with these posts as under the table money are mindboggling, according to Indian Railways sources. The post of certain general managers carried a price of Rs 2.5 to Rs 5 crore and of certain Railway Board members over Rs 5 crore. The most shocking information is that in the appointment of a Railway Board chairman a few years ago, a political leader allegedly took an unbelievable Rs 50 crore. The deal was that the chairman will pay the money in a fixed time frame after taking over. A former Railway Board official said: "By appointing honest officers to these posts in the Railways, the Modi government has curbed corruption of a minimum Rs 1,000 crore so far." If Modi is to get maximum results for his initiatives, he has to now find ways to take this clean bureaucracy culture to the states through some innovative

methods and innovation to have maximum impact.

History is a great teacher. In 1707, when Mughal emperor Aurangzeb died in Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, virtually losing the 27-year epic war with the Marathas, he had one big regret which he put in his last will and testament: The greatest pillar of a kingdom is the keeping of information. The laxity of my spy network allowed Shivaji to escape from my clutches from Agra in 1666. That blunder is chiefly responsible for my misery now."

Modi appears to have realised that unless he streamlines the bureaucracy and with it the delivery system, his so-called great vision is never going to get translated. He also seems to have taken a cue from Chattrapati Shivaji's life story as described by the great historian Sir Jadunath Sarkar: "Shivaji's dominion spread first of all through the conquests of hearts of the common people which only a strong and honest administrator can achieve." Clearly, today as in Shivaji's period, the way to their heart is through good governance, which in turn, is possible only through a good delivery system. And Modi seems to know it.

*Courtesy: www.dailyo.in 7th June
2015*

Nitish Kumar Trying to Claim the Space of Good Governance a Joke for Bihar People: Ravi Shankar Prasad



What do you have to say about Nitish and Lalu joining hands?

We are very happy. It deprives Nitish Kumar of the entire moral fibre of being the so-called epitome of good governance. It's a big joke for the people of Bihar, Nitish Kumar trying to claim the space of good governance sitting on the shoulders of Lalu Prasad. He loses all his credibility because now he becomes part of the legacy of kidnapping, corruption and rank misrule with which Lalu Prasad is associated. Secondly, the shaky nature of this coalition is evident from the telling statement of Lalu

Prasad that he had to drink poison under compulsion. This shows the deep-seated hatred between them.

Since Bihar politics is caste-based, what prospects do you see for the Nitish-Lalu coalition vis-a-vis BJP?

We should not forget that 30% of the same Bihar voted for BJP. We got 31 seats out of 40 in Lok Sabha polls while Nitish was reduced to two and Lalu got four. Bihar is also an aspirational society with a quest for change and good governance. That will be very clearly reflected in the polls. Moreover, BJP's support base is so huge that it touches all

segments of society. In fact, after Lalu joining hands with Nitish we see a chunk of the latter's support coming to BJP.

Your opponents will make it a secular versus non-secular fight in Bihar.

This is not a new phenomenon. Any secular, non-secular phony divide has led to the victory of BJP. Always. From 1990 till now. In Lok Sabha (elections in 2014), the same issue was raised. We know what happened.

But BJP has always said that assembly polls are different from Lok Sabha.

This so-called debate of secular-communal divide is evident and has been defeated repeatedly. The same thing was tried in Jharkhand, Haryana, Maharashtra, and J&K against BJP. It's not new. I only wish they could coin something new. They could not. For us it is a very happy moment that Lalu Prasad is not claiming the plank of good governance. He says it is to stop the communal forces. So there is a disconnect as far as political posturing (of JDU-RJD) is concerned.

Rahul Gandhi has played a role in formation of this alliance. Do you see this as his coming of age as a leader?

I have no problem with Nitish

meeting anybody for the sake of his political survival or expansion. But Congress is a nearly finished force in Bihar. As for Rahul, I don't want to make a comment. I have not seen any instance in the last two-three elections where Rahul has brought good political dividends for his party from his political activism.

How do you see the likelihood of OBC - EBC - Muslim - Mahadalit votes going to JD (U)-RJD?

BJP's vote bank cuts across social divide. A big number of forward castes, OBCs...Ram Vilas Paswan is with us and a big Dalit support base is with BJP. Therefore, apart from their self claimed social base, a big support base cutting across social divide is with BJP.

Will BJP fight Bihar polls in the name of Modi or has there been a change in plans after the Delhi debacle?

It will definitely be on the achievements of Narendra Modi. He has stood for rights of states. You have seen that in his stand on federal principles, on sharing of coal block auctions royalty. As PM, his directions to us, his ministers, are also very clear that we must ensure eastern India grows.

Now that Nitish has been declared the CM candidate, will NDA also take a call on this or will the Delhi experience act

as a deterrent?

A call on this has to be taken by the party's central parliamentary board. In many states we projected the leader, like in Delhi where we failed, in Rajasthan, MP. In some states we did not, like in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana. Let us see what the party's parliamentary board in its collective wisdom decides.

There is a perception that Sushil Modi is the de facto CM candidate of NDA.

He is a senior leader. But let us leave it to the parliamentary board to decide. I will only say that even a simple worker of BJP will perform better in governance than what Nitish and Lalu Prasad have done.

What about Nitish's charge that Narendra Modi is communal and this is the reason he walked out of NDA?

Why did he take 17 years to understand that? He came to us in 1995 after losing Bihar when Ram Janmabhoomi movement was very much alive and important. So Nitish Kumar knew the gotra of BJP very well, yet he remained with NDA for 17 years. He has his own ambition and after being defeated conclusively by the people (in Lok Sabha polls) he does not know where to go. Both Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad have said they have

come together for survival. It is a coming together for political survival, not for governance.

How will drought-like conditions in Bihar affect BJP's prospects as Nitish is saying the Centre has not done enough?

If everything is to be done by the Centre then for what is Nitish Kumar there as chief minister? Bihar will get a big chunk of money - more than Rs 2 lakh crore in the coming five years - due to the increase in share of states recommended by the 14th Finance Commission. He can't shift the consequences of his own lack of governance and stability to the central government. That he will have to suffer himself. Bihar needs to walk with Modi and BJP for the sake of development.

BJP has been alleging that Bihar has witnessed Jungle Raj-II under Nitish. So will law and order and governance be the main issues for you?

That, plus development and growth. Obviously, Lalu Prasad's regime provokes a lot of bad images which the people of Bihar know, people of the country know...the issue of law and order, of profound sense of insecurity, of lack of development and growth.

Courtesy: The Economic Times, 12 June, 2015

Neighbourhood First: Together We Grow!

• *Sudarshan Ramabadran*

Undoubtedly, one of the hallmarks of the Narendra Modi led Government has been the discernible transformation in the foreign policy front. India has admirably transformed from pursuing a hesitant foreign policy for over 6 decades to a proactive and purposeful foreign policy for positioning herself as an emerging global superpower. Special emphasis has been laid on 'Neighbourhood First Policy', which has been armed with the goal of regional co-operation.

Subject experts debating and discussing the growth chart of South Asian countries have always argued and reasoned that South Asian countries have increasingly acknowledged that a regional approach and common actions are essential to accomplish their development goals. This is the very purpose for SAARC to come into being. There are several benefits for regional cooperation, namely, a country's economic system becomes regionally interconnected, speeds up economic growth, enables the fight to eliminate poverty and ensures a steady generation of employment opportunities. Position papers have

always focussed on the fact that countries like Nepal, Afghanistan and Bhutan often find it difficult to fund the large infrastructural projects making a regional approach more attractive. Studies have also pointed out that South Asian governments have recently given greater attention to regional and global linkages. Countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan have emphasized on regional connectivity in their respective policy decisions.

It is in this context that Prime Minister Narendra Modi elucidated his vision in his first ever address at the SAARC summit, wherein he stressed on the need to integrate the SAARC countries on four vital pillars of rail, road, power and transit:

"Today goods travel from one Punjab to another Punjab through Delhi, Mumbai, Dubai and Karachi – making travel eleven times longer and the cost four times more. India too has its share of its responsibility – because of our size and location. I know that many of your goods have to do a *Parikrama* [circumambulation] of India to reach their destinations. Just think of what we are doing to our

consumers and to the environment. We must shrink the distance between our producers and consumers and resort to using the direct routes of trade. I know India has to lead, we will do our part, I hope each of you will too."

True to these words at the previous SAARC summit, efforts on behalf of PM Modi and the Government of India have never ceased; the Prime Minister's recent visit to Bangladesh gave birth to the much needed SAARC sub-regional development plan, which has been in the offing from the 2010 SAARC Summit. In specific, the recent signing of the Coastal Shipping agreement between India and Bangladesh integrates Nepal and Bhutan and eventually leads to the boosting of economic co-operation, bilateral trade and most significantly people-to-people contacts. The agreement which was actually forged between India and Bangladesh in 2010 but signed now, serves as a critical stepping stone for opening connectivity, not only between Bangladesh and India, but also with Bhutan and Nepal, helping identify the most efficient regional and international transport routes. Yes, the successful forward movement of the sub regional grouping of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) has made connectivity its priority in the form

of the Coastal Shipping Agreement.

Soon after the signing of the agreement, India's Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar outlined the importance of such a coastal agreement with Bangladesh, "We see this as really a very key understanding that would allow us to use our common bay and each other's waterways for movement of cargo. As of now, the bulk of our trade takes place across the land border, and to the extent that we have sea trade this is done through distant ports. The goods are taken to distant ports and then they are reloaded into feeder vessels which then bring them into Chittagong. What this Coastal Shipping Agreement would do is to basically enable the direct regular movement of ships between India and Bangladesh, which would bring the shipping time down from 30 to 40 days on average to seven to 10 days.", he said.

India's trade with Bangladesh has grown rapidly during the past few years. Bangladesh is now India's largest trade partner in South Asia. As per the agreement, the opening up of the coastal route between India and Bangladesh is expected to provide an alternative route for the transportation of Exim (Export-Import) cargo between the two countries. Exim trade between India and Bangladesh would be

benefited by way of reduction in freight charges. It will also improve the utilization of port capacities of Indian ports and open up new opportunity for Indian coastal vessels. It will also help in decongestion of roads especially at the Land custom stations and integrated check posts at the Indo-Bangladesh boarder.

The agreement also allows Bangladesh to engage with Nepal and Bhutan in the sphere of bilateral trade. This is one of the most vital takeaways from the BBIN agreement; improved connectivity will help increase in bilateral trade across the 4 countries which in turn will help the countries help reap the benefits of growth. Indian Prime Minister's commitment to ease of doing business and speeding up of infrastructure facilities in the borders will only add to India's consistent and continuous efforts of maximizing India's trade ties with her immediate neighbourhood.

At the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu, Bhutan in 2010, member countries declared 2010-2020 as the –Decade of Intra-regional Connectivity in SAARC. They unanimously acknowledged the importance of developing transport infrastructure and transit facilities, especially for the landlocked countries as a means to promote

intra-SAARC trade. This agreement is a significant milestone for achieving the objective of intra-regional connectivity.

The Coastal Shipping Agreement integrating BBIN is a meaningful step initiated by India in realising the ancient virtue of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – the entire world is one family. This also reiterates how by operating on the 5 pristine pillars, namely Samman – Dignity and honour, Samvad – greater engagement and dialogue, Samridhhi – Shared prosperity, Suraksha – regional and global security and Sanskriti evam Sabhyata – cultural and civilizational linkages, as outlined in the BJP's Foreign policy resolution adopted in the party's national executive meeting, the Government is blending foreign policy with national economic development. Finally, here is a concrete measure that has given new vigour to PM Modi's strong belief in the shared future of our neighbourhood – Together we grow!

(The author is a Research Associate with the India Foundation, New Delhi, his areas of interest are international affairs, India's neighbourhood and governance)

Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh to Get Fertiliser Plants in Jabalpur and Jhabu

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Ananth Kumar announced in his recent visit to State of MP that Madhya Pradesh would soon get two fertilizer plants with a total production capacity of 26 lakh ton. Two fertilizer plants in Jabalpur and Jhabua will be set-up to resolve the fertiliser demand and supply gap in the state. The Union Government will spend Rs 11,000 crore to set-up the plants. Madhya Pradesh requires 20 lakh ton of urea for its agricultural sector. The aim of the State Government is to produce as much fertilizer within the state so

that demand can be met and so accordingly a demand in this regard was forwarded to the Union Government. The two upcoming fertilizer plants with a production capacity of 13 lakh ton each will surely resolve the mismatch of demand and supply and it will also create employment opportunities for the local people of region. The dual fertilizer plants will prove to be a boon for farmers of the state and is a gift from the Union Government. This will generate huge employment and resolve the fertilizer crisis as the state will produce its own urea.

22 New ITIs to be Opened in Tribal Areas of Madhya Pradesh

During the current academic session, 25 new ITIs will be opened in unserviced areas. 22 out of these 25 new IT IS will be opened in tribal development blocks. New ITIs will be opened at Banda in Sagar district, Badwara in Katni district and Majhauili in Sidhi district. Similarly, ITIs will also be opened at Sardarpur, Gandhwani, Bakaner (Umarvan) and Dahi in Dhar district, Thandla, Meghnagar and Rama in Jhabua district, Sondwa,

Bhikangaon and Goganwa in Alirajpur district, Sendhwa, Rajpur, Thikri and Pansemal in Barwani district, Bajna in Ratlam district, Karahal in Sheopur district, Gohparu in Shahdol district, Bhimpur and Shahpur in Betul district, Harrai in Chhindwara district, Bichhiya in Mandla district and Birsa development block of Balaghat district.

Gujarat Anandiben Patel's Clarion Call 'School Chale Hum'



Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel recently kicked-off a three-day long 'Shala Praveshotsav' (school enrolment drive) along with the girl child education drive for rural areas from a village in Gir-Somnath district. To mark the launch of this year's enrollment drive, CM Anandiben Patel recently penned a blog titled 'School Chale Hum'. She has urged people to enroll at least one underprivileged child to a nearby public school and also to write to her about their experiences and difficulties that they face while enrolling children. The statewide drive in Gujarat is aimed at achieving 100 per cent enrolment of

students in primary schools and reduce drop out ratio. The drive was started by the Chief Minister from Arnej village of Gir Somnath district. The Chief Minister enrolled 86 students in primary school and 60 toddlers in the Anganwadi centre of that village. She also inaugurated a girls' school as well as a Kasturba Gandhi School, built at a cost of Rs 70 lakh. This initiative was first started by the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi 13 years back and have been observed every year since then.

Striving for Youth led Development

① Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram: Specially designed for poor and middle-class students to ensure no one misses college for lack of funds.

② Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana : Skill vouchers for upgrading skills, directly disbursed to bank account for rural students

③ A Senior Secondary school being planned within 5 km reach of every child

④ Scholarships come directly into bank accounts with Jan Dhan Yojana, removing delays and corruption.

⑤ Digital India: Enhancing Digital Connectivity & empowering the Youth

⑥ Amendments done to Apprenticeship act to help youngsters

⑦ SETU mechanism to support all aspects of start-up business

⑧ MUDRA Bank for easy financing to informal sector

⑨ Atal Innovation Mission to encourage & nurture innovation



Major Boost to Digital India Mission by Modi Govt

Broadband users increase by 63% under Modi Govt



Source: March 2014: <http://www.trai.gov.in/WriteReadData/PressRealease/Document/Press%20Release-TSD-Mar,14.pdf>
 March 2015: <http://www.trai.gov.in/WriteReadData/WhatsNew/Documents/PR-34-TSD-Mar-12052015.pdf>

E-Visa Implementation Boosts Tourist Count by more than 1000%

Modi Govt gives major boost to Tourism by introduction of E-Visas



Source : Ministry of Tourism

कांग्रेस बाबासाहेब अंबेडकर के नाम पर कर रही है वोट बैंक की राजनीति: अमित शाह

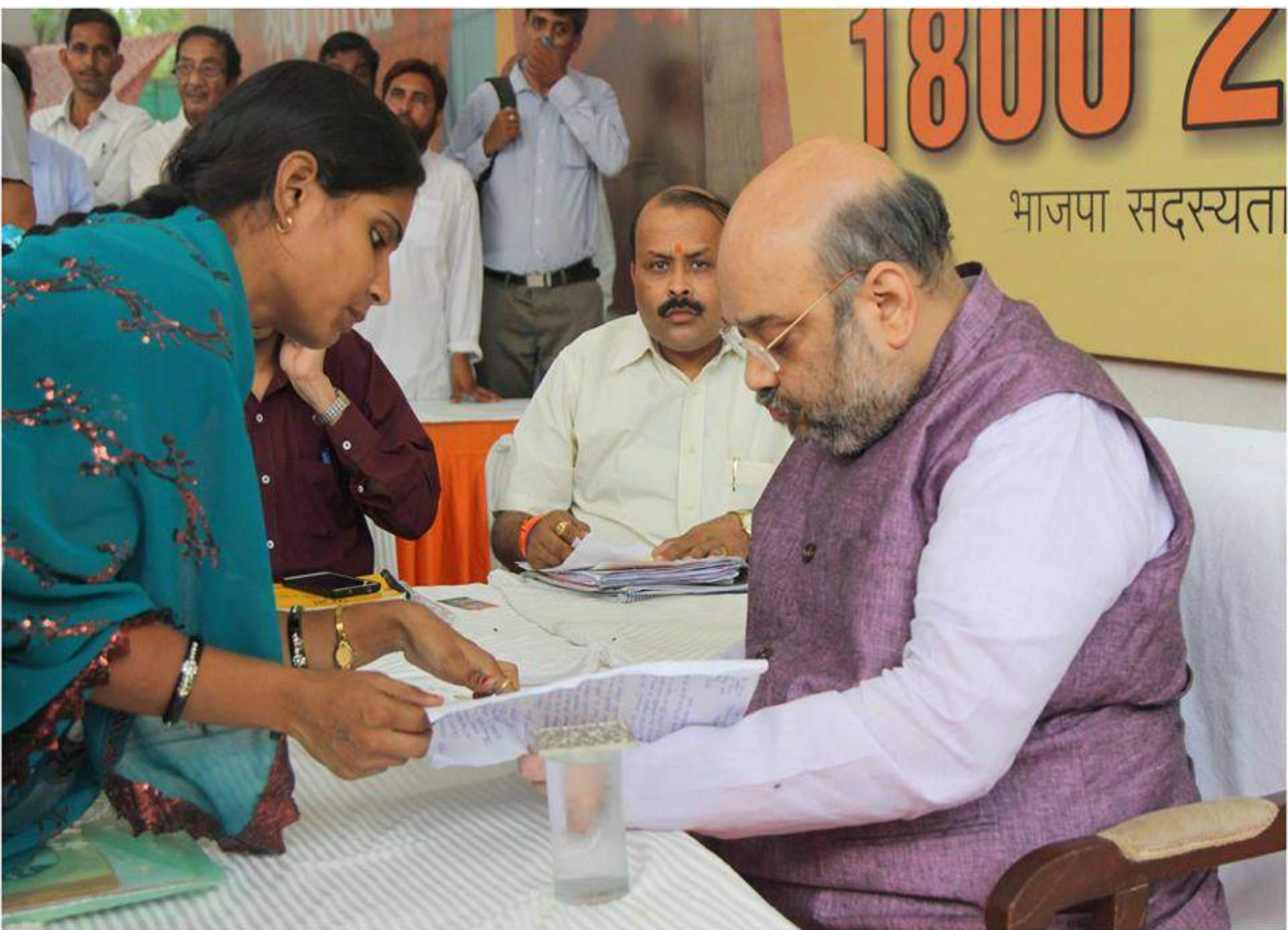


नई दिल्ली, 15 जून, 2015। भाजपा मुख्यालय में अनुसूचित जाति मोर्चे द्वारा आयोजित एक-दिवसीय कार्यशाला को संबोधित करते हुए श्री अमित शाह ने कहा “कांग्रेस ने दशकों तक सिर्फ बाबासाहेब के नाम पर वोट बैंक की राजनीति की, पर कभी उनका सम्मान नहीं किया, हमारी सरकार ने कौशल विकास के लिए विभिन्न योजनाएँ चलाई हैं जिसका सबसे ज्यादा लाभ अनुसूचित जाति के लोगो को

मिलेगा। मैं अपने मोर्चे के कार्यकर्ताओं से आवाहन करता हूँ कि वो हमारे अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों के बीच में जाएं और इन योजनाओं की जानकारी दें। साथ ही संकल्प करें कि सभी दलित बस्तियों में प्रधानमंत्री सुरक्षा योजनाओं के अंतर्गत सबका पंजीकरण हो जिससे इसका लाभ उन्हें मिले।”

स्रोत : श्री अमित शाह के फेसबुक पेज से

‘जन-संवाद’



अपने पाक्षिक ‘जन-संवाद’ कार्यक्रम के दौरान भाजपा मुख्यालय में कार्यकर्ताओं एवं आमजन से संवाद कर उनकी समस्याओं एवं सुझावों को सुनते हुए

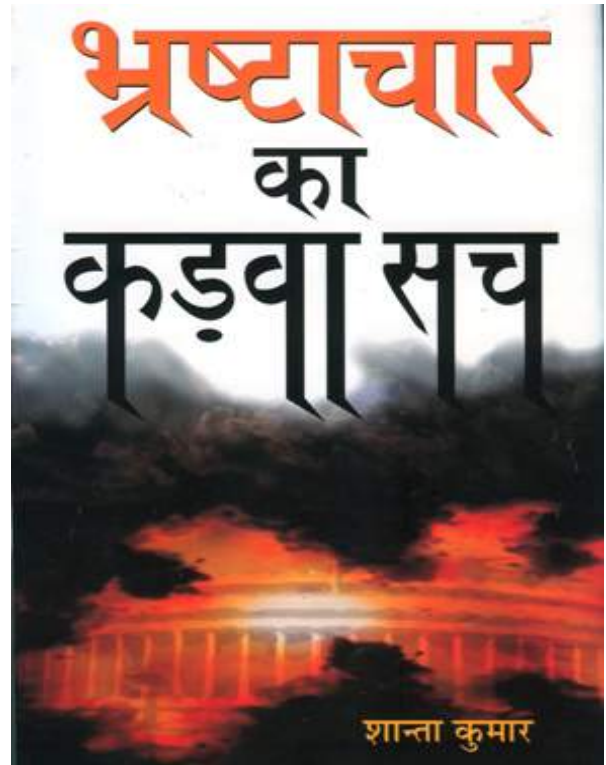
स्रोत : श्री अमति शाह के फेसबुक पेज से

‘भ्रष्टाचार का कड़वा सच’ - शांता कुमार

• शैलेन्द्र कुमार शुक्ल

एक राजनेता जब लेखक की भूमिका में आता है तो विषय विश्लेषण, तथ्य और अनुभव का मिला-जुला स्वरूप देखने को मिलता है। भारतीय राजनीति के सशक्त हस्ताक्षर और हिमांचल प्रदेश के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री श्री शांता कुमार की पुस्तक “भ्रष्टाचार का कड़वा सच” इसका प्रत्यक्ष प्रमाण है। भ्रष्टाचार को केन्द्र में रखकर लिखी गयी यह पुस्तक उन सभी तथ्यों तर्कों और विषयों का रहस्योद्घाटन करती है जिससे आज तक देश और जनता अंजान है। एक तरह से हम कह सकते हैं कि इनकी यह पुस्तक भारतीय लोकतंत्र की जड़ों तक फैला भ्रष्टाचार की गाथा है। इस बात को साबित करने के लिए काफी है कि किस तरह से भारत की प्रगति में भ्रष्टाचार कांटा बिछा रहा है। आज 67 साल के परिपक्व लोकतंत्र को भी विकास के मामले में दारिद्र्य की स्थिति को प्राप्त करना ही इस बात को बल देता है कि देश में भ्रष्टाचार किस कदर हावी है। श्री कुमार पुस्तक में एक जगह राजीव गांधी के वक्तव्य का जिक्र करते हैं “ एक बार राजीव गांधी ने कहा था कि दिल्ली से गाँव के लिए जब एक रुपया चलता है तो उसमें से केवल 15 पैसा पहुंचता है, लेकिन श्री गांधी ने यह नहीं बताया कि बाकी के 85 पैसे कहाँ जाते हैं” उस समय पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री राजीव गांधी का यह वक्तव्य ही इस बात को साबित कर रहा है कि इस कार्य में केवल जन प्रतिनिधि और नौकर शाह से लेकर किसी कार्यालय का एक मामूली क्लर्क भी शामिल है।

प्रस्तुत पुस्तक में भ्रष्टाचार को लेकर शांता कुमार ने तथ्यों, अनुभवों और उदाहरणों से स्वयं को और सियासी अनुभवों को अक्षरशः प्रस्तुत किया है। गद्यात्मक संस्मरण और कहानी की शैली में लिखी गयी यह पुस्तक आम पाठकों के लिए काफी रोचक एवं पठनीय है। भ्रष्टाचार जैसे विषय पर बिना किसी दुराग्रह और पक्षपातपूर्ण विश्लेषण से बचते हुए लिखी गयी यह पुस्तक कई गूढ़ जानकारियों को सहज ही पाठकों तक पहुंचा रही है। इस पुस्तक को श्री कुमार ने अपने अध्ययन और अनुभवों को पूरी पारदर्शिता के साथ लिखा है।



शांता कुमार की यह पुस्तक ऐसे समय में आयी है जब चारों ओर भ्रष्टाचार को लेकर लड़ाई की बात कही जा रही है, और दिल्ली में एक पार्टी भी इसी को हथियार बनाकर सत्ता पर काबिज हुई है। भ्रष्टाचार जैसे मसले को देखने और परखने के मामले में आज की पीढ़ी पहले से जाग्रत तो हुई है लेकिन, अब भी उस मुकाम तक नहीं पहुंची है जहां होना चाहिए।

प्रस्तुत पुस्तक में लेखक श्री शांता कुमार ने पंचायत स्तर से लेकर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर चल रहे भ्रष्टाचार को बड़ी बारीकी से उकेरने का प्रयास किए हैं। भगत सिंह को याद करने की शैली हो अथवा भैरो सिंह शेखावत को, या फिर खाद्यान वितरण में चल रहे गड़बड़ियों को बहुत जीवंत प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

BHRASTACHAR KA KADWA SACH

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विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस के अवसर पर प्रधानमंत्री
नरेन्द्र मोदी का संदेश

“जैसे हम सांसारिक वस्तुओं को धारण करने में गर्व महसूस करते हैं, वैसे ही हमें परिवार द्वारा लगाए गए वृक्षों के लिए भी गर्व होना चाहिए।”

“प्रकृति के साथ सामंजस्य बनाकर रखना ही धरती पर प्रलयकारी स्थिति से बचने का एकमात्र उपाय है।”



7, रेसकोर्स रोड के लॉन में कदम्ब का एक पौधा लगाते हुए प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, साथ में हैं केन्द्रीय पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर। इस अवसर पर प्रधानमंत्री ने पौधे के निकट एक परंपरागत मटका भी रखा, जो जल संरक्षण का पारंपरिक तरीका है और इससे पौधे को नियमित जल आपूर्ति भी सुनिश्चित होती है।

“The world is large enough for all of us to stand by the maxim - live and let live - and to inaugurate the establishment of a confederation of free countries, each having the liberty to develop itself on the basis of its own culture and traditions and contributing its share to the spirit of Man which recognizes no barrier of race, religion or colour.”

- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

